

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

## REPORT NO

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1. Sibenik, one of the most important commercial ports in Yugoslavia, is situated on the mouth of the Krka River. The port is well-protected from the sea by a channel, and at the entrance to the channel itself there is a group of islands. The islands and the channel afford natural protection and limit the possibilities of assault.

2. Sibenik is connected with the mainland by standard and narrow gauge railroads leading to the Sara River valley and the Dinara Mountain area, respectively.

3. The war damage to military installations has been repaired, and the artillery batteries in four lines of defense are at top efficiency. The artillery installations have four types of construction; each of these will be explained in Appendix One.

## The External Line of Defense

4. The external line is composed of the following batteries:

a. The Rogoznica flank battery is composed of three 76 mm Skoda guns located on the northern part of Lake Rogoznica. This battery is assigned with keeping the mine bar which closes the southern passage (from Split to Sibenik) under fire. Type Three construction is used here. The observation tower at Point 123 communicates with this battery by signalling the approach and identifying each vessel.

b. Zecevo I battery of "long guns" is located southwest of the village of Zecevo. There are two 150 mm guns with a range of 24 kilometers. It coordinates its fire with a similar battery on Zirje Island to close the passage between the coast and Zirje Island. Type One construction is used here.

c. Zecevo II battery of medium caliber guns is located west of Cape Zecevo and has two 80 mm Skoda guns with a range of seven kilometers. The assigned task of this battery is to bring under fire the passage between the coast and the islands of Maslinovik and Lukovik. Type Two construction is used.

d. Zirje I battery, composed of two 150 mm guns with a range of 24 kilometers, is located south of Zirje Island at Point 121 (Borovica). This battery,

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in conjunction with Zecevo I, covers the passage between the coast and Zirje Island. At Point 131, two kilometers southeast of the battery, there is a well-equipped observation tower. Communication is maintained with the observation tower at Movar.

- e. Zirje II battery is made up of two 150 mm guns with a range of 24 kilometers and is located on the northern part of the Zirje Island above the Saint Nicholas (Niko) Monastery. Access to Sibenik from the Zadar (Zawa) area is guarded by this battery in conjunction with the battery on Murter Island. Type One construction is used. There are concrete bunkers (more than one meter in thickness) which cover the concrete base on which the weapons are placed.
5. Between the external and internal defense lines there are two batteries which did not exist prior to the war. It is believed that these fortifications were constructed by either the Germans or Italians during the war, or possibly by Tito's engineers. These two batteries are the Kakan and the Kapienje, both of which have two 100 mm howitzer guns. The former is located at Point 99 (Ratovac) on Kakan Island and the latter at Point 124 (Uljenka) on Kapienje Island.

The Internal Defense Line

6. The internal defense line is made up of medium caliber batteries as follows:
- a. Prigrada battery is located at Point 77 and has two 90 mm guns. The passage between the coast and Zlarin Island is protected by this battery in cooperation with Lusa battery. Type One construction is used here.
  - b. Lusa battery has two 90 mm guns and is located near Lusa village. The construction is Type One.
  - c. Razina I battery has two 120 mm howitzer guns at Point 66 between the beach and Razina village. This battery guards the Sibenik channel. Construction Type One.
  - d. Razina II battery has anti-aircraft artillery. Information on the number of weapons, their caliber and quality is lacking.
  - e. Zlarin I battery has two 80 mm guns located on the southwestern part of Cape Rat at Point 74. This battery guards Sibenik channel from the south together with Prigrada, Lusa and Razina batteries. The observation tower at Klepac (Point 174) on Zlarin Island, equipped with radio and optical instruments, communicates with Zlarin I. Construction Type One.
  - f. Zlarin II battery has two 100 mm howitzers, located at Point 85 on Cape Marin. The Prvic battery cooperates in guarding the Sibenik Vrata (Door of Sibenik). Construction Type One.

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- g. The Prvic battery, composed of two 100 mm howitzers, is located on Prvic Island as Point 79. With Zlarin II, this battery defends the Sibonska Vrata. In cooperation with Logorun battery the Prvic battery protects the passage between the Prvic and Logorun Islands and the Sibenik channel. Construction Type One.
- h. Logorun battery, made up of two 100 mm howitzers is located on Logorun Island. This battery and Kapirije battery covers the passage to Sibenska Vrata. Construction Type One.

Third Line of Defense (Port Entrance)

- 7. The defense for the entrance to the port is made up of the following fortifications:
  - a. The ancient Fortress Sv. Nikola on the island of the same name, located on the Sibenik channel, has three guns of unknown caliber. It is charged with the direct defense of the entrance to the port.
  - b. Sedlo Plank battery has two naval 76 mm guns near a lighthouse at Point 61. This battery protects the length of the channel.
  - c. Concrete machine gun emplacements are situated in a series to complete the direct defenses of the channel. These emplacements extend from the southern part of the area of the Cape connected with Sv. Nikola Island to the northern part of Cape Jadrija and near Sv. Strika. Some of the emplacements were constructed in 1947, but additional details of construction and armament are lacking. It is stated that the emplacements are not manned at present, but that in the event of an emergency, the Yugoslav naval infantry (marines) would occupy them.

Fourth Line of Defense

- 8. This line of defense extends from the Krka River / Gozdenovac (Point 223) / Veliki Sisel (Point 201) / Obljic (Point 237) / Burnjak (Point 288) to Lake Jatnevac. The defenses were prepared prior to the war. The only permanent structure is the observation tower on the Kamenak. Some of the temporary fortifications are used for field training.

Other Defenses

- 9. There is a seaplane base at Vodice about one and one half kilometers southeast of the town of Vodice. This seaplane base has a concrete ramp, two hangars and two smaller barracks buildings. There are a number of seaplanes for training; in June there were said to be four planes at the base.
- 10. On the southern beach of the channel at the Point between the Zablace Channel Roads and the Jurkovic Channel, there is a large modern sea mines magazine. It is perfectly camouflaged, constructed of concrete. This is said to be the strongest and most important area in the Sibenik port.
- 11. The Madalina Navy radio transmitter is one kilometer southeast of Madalina.

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Appendix 1

Types of Fortifications

Type Number One

1. Type Number One is constructed as follows:

The platform for the gun is uncovered or covered (covered only at the Murter battery)

Two entrances: the main and secondary

Shelter for the crew

Observation area with telephone

Munitions magazine

Radio transmitter

2. Except for the gun platform, everything else is underground and connected by gangways. Cement is used where necessary.
3. On the open platforms the weapons have a blast wall about 80 to 120 cm thick, according to the type of weapon.
4. The height difference between the gun and the entrance is always such that the bombshells which might fall on the platform or around it would not penetrate into the rooms below.
5. Munitions must be transported to the guns by wheelbarrow.
6. The observatory has openings for the telescope protected with movable steel shields. Commands are received by telephone.

Type Number Two

7. The difference between type one and type two is mostly in the quality of construction.

Type Number Three

8. Each weapon has a separate platform and the distance between the platforms serves as flank protection for the weapons and crew.
9. On the front there is a protective wall, enabling the gun to cover the area from sea level upward. At the rear of the platform there is a munitions magazine and shelter for the crew which is underground and protected by a strong steel door. The observatory is built close by, but without a phone. The commands are given by voice.
10. The Rogoznica battery, constructed of this type, has no search-lights so that its value during the night is almost worthless.

Type Number Four

11. The ancient Fortresses of Sv. Nikola and Sušicevac were built as permanent fortifications during the Middle Ages. They are two-story buildings of stone, with thick walls and easy to observe. Their importance lies in the fact that there are underground munitions magazines located there.

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12. The ancient Fortress Subicevac, near the Orthodox cemetery above Sibenik, is used as a barracks for naval infantry and the underground areas are used as war magazines. Construction Type Four.

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